

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, cancel claim 3, withdraw claims 7-14 and add claims 15-19 as follows.

1           1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for preparing  
2 tax returns comprising:  
3           ~~obtaining, by a computer system, identification data identifying a~~  
4           taxpayer's employer;  
5           ~~determining, by the computer system via communication over a~~  
6           ~~communications network with a tax data provider associated with the~~  
7           ~~taxpayer's employer, using the identification data and providing~~  
8           ~~taxpayer authentication data to the tax data provider, that tax data~~  
9           about the taxpayer is available from ~~[[a]] the~~ tax data provider  
10           ~~associated with the taxpayer's employer;~~  
11           ~~electronically~~ retrieving, from the tax data provider, the tax data about the  
12           taxpayer; and  
13           ~~electronically~~ preparing a tax return for the taxpayer using the retrieved  
14           tax data.

1           2. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the identification data identifying the taxpayer's employer is an  
3 employer identification number (EIN).

1           3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:  
3 querying a plurality of tax data providers with the identification data to  
4 determine which of the tax data providers are associated with the  
5 taxpayer's employer.

1 5. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:  
3 identifying a plurality of employers providing tax data electronically; and  
4 determining, using the identification data identifying the taxpayer's  
5 employer, whether the taxpayer's employer provides tax data  
6 electronically.

1 6. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 further comprising electronically filing the tax return with a taxing authority.

1 7. - 14. (Withdrawn)

1 15. (New) A computer program product for preparing tax returns, the  
2 computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium and  
3 including program code to cause a computer system to carry out the steps of:  
4 obtaining identification data identifying a taxpayer's employer;  
5 determining, via communication over a communications network with a  
6 tax data provider associated with the taxpayer's employer, using the  
7 identification data and providing taxpayer authentication data to the  
8 tax data provider, that tax data about the taxpayer is available from  
9 the tax data provider;

10 retrieving, from the tax data provider, the tax data about the taxpayer; and  
11 preparing a tax return for the taxpayer using the retrieved tax data.

1 16. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the  
2 identification data identifying the taxpayer's employer is an employer  
3 identification number (EIN).

1 17. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein  
2 determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:  
3 querying a plurality of tax data providers with the identification data to  
4 determine which of the tax data providers are associated with the  
5 taxpayer's employer.

1 18. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein  
2 determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:  
3 identifying a plurality of employers providing tax data electronically; and  
4 determining, using the identification data identifying the taxpayer's  
5 employer, whether the taxpayer's employer provides tax data  
6 electronically.

1 19. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, further  
2 comprising electronically filing the tax return with a taxing authority.